CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1357
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LETTER DATED 21 SEPTEMBER 1995 FROM THE DEPUTY HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF SRI LANKA TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ADDRESSED TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF DELEGATION AT THE 719TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE ON 21 SEPTEMBER 1995 CONCERNING RECENT NUCLEAR TESTS

I have the honour to refer to the intervention of my Ambassador concerning the recent nuclear tests carried out by two nuclear-weapon States, which was made during the 719th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament on 21 September 1995.

I should be grateful if you would kindly ensure that the attached part of this intervention could be produced as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to all member States and non-member participants in the work of the CD.

(Signed) W.P.R.B. Wickremasinghe
Minister
Deputy Head of Delegation

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Sri Lanka notes with deep concern, the two nuclear-weapon test explosions carried out on 17 August and 5 September by two nuclear-weapon States. The sentiments expressed, both individually and collectively, by the international community following the recent tests, reflect the strong opposition to such tests, for they vitiate the current favourable international political and security climate.

Sri Lanka believes that such tests are neither desirable nor do they help enhance the confidence indispensable to the on-going CTBT negotiations which are in their final stage.

In this context, Sri Lanka wishes to remind the nuclear weapon States of their undertaking given at the fifth NPT Review and Extension Conference, inter alia, to exercise "utmost restraint" in nuclear weapons testing.

Sri Lanka would, therefore, urge them to refrain from any action that could adversely affect the conditions conducive to the expeditious conclusion of the CTBT negotiations.